

**CITY OF SAVANNAH  
ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE**

**Meeting Agenda**

April 30, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Bull Street Library Auditorium

- I. Welcome and Introductions  
Anne Roise, Economic Development Department
- II. Task Force Contact List
- III. Review of last meeting
- IV. Follow up from last meeting
  - a. Brief History of the Task Force Recommendation and Initial Report:  
Study on Persistent Poverty in the South  
Dr. Victoria Bertolozzi, City/Community Planning and Development
  - b. Profile of Poverty in Savannah  
Julie Lamy, Economic Development Department
  - c. Summary of Community Resources
- V. Next Steps
  - a. Scope of Work
  - b. Organizational Structure
- VI. Next Meeting

## **CITY OF SAVANNAH ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE**

### **Summary of Meeting**

April 30, 2003, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Bull Street Library Auditorium

1. Welcome/Introductions  
Attending: Anne Roise, Julie Lamy, Keith Vermillion, Dr. Shirley Geiger, Sr. Pat Baber, Carole Richter, Hope Jones, Gena Taylor, Ed Chisolm, LaVanda Brown, Sarahlyn Argrow, Yolanda Fontaine, Bridget Lidy, Dr. Victoria Bertolozzi, Tina Bonifacio, Jim Stevenson, Rev. Audrey Vincent, Maureen Horvath, Jamal Toure, Craig Wallace and Tom Wilson.
2. Task Force Contact List  
A Task Force contact list was compiled and circulated for review. Staff requested that changes be submitted to Julie Lamy, [jlamy@ci.savannah.ga.us](mailto:jlamy@ci.savannah.ga.us)
3. Review of Last Meeting  
The March 25 meeting summary was reviewed. No additions/changes were made.
4. Follow up from Last Meeting
  - A. Dr. Victoria Bertolozzi provided additional information about the impetus for the creation of the Task Force. A chart depicting the poverty rate in Savannah from 1970 – 2000 illustrated persistent poverty in Savannah.
  - B. Dr. Bertolozzi also presented an initial report on the “Study of Persistent Poverty in the South.” A handout is attached. The study in its entirety can be found at <http://www.cviog.uga.edu/poverty/final/report.pdf>
  - C. Julie Lamy distributed a *Profile of Poverty in Savannah*. Poverty indicators did not decrease or decreased minimally from 1990 – 2000 except for one indicator: *Of Families Below the Poverty Level, the Percentage with Female Head of Households*. This indicator increased in the state, county, city and the CDBG target area. Another note: The high school completion rate is not a conclusive poverty indicator because collection of the data does not account for students who move out of the system or complete school in greater than or less than four years. The complete Profile is attached.
  - D. *The Summary of Community Resources* is attached. Task Force members are to fill in “x’s” where appropriate for their agency. The summary will be used to assess gaps in provision of services.
5. Meeting Discussion  
The Task Force continued discussions about its scope of work. Several members supported the idea, originally suggested by the City Manager, of working with a finite number of families to address their obstacles. Other members suggested engaging a finite number of churches, especially those in CDBG areas with the highest poverty, to deliver services.

## 6. Next Steps

- A. Study on Persistent Poverty in the South: The Task Force decided to recommend that the City of Savannah and Chatham County challenge the county's exclusion from the designated persistent poverty areas. Task Force members – Dr. Bertolozzi, Dr. Geiger and Gena Taylor will meet to draft a letter outlining the Task Force's position.
- B. Best Practices: Task Force members are asked to research best practices in their area of service delivery. Information can be e-mailed/passed around at meetings or members can request time on the agenda to present their findings. To request a slot on the agenda, contact [jlamy@ci.savannah.ga.us](mailto:jlamy@ci.savannah.ga.us).
- C. Wage Standards: The Task Force requested information on the living wage and other wage standards. The City's Economic Development Department created an informational piece that will be shared at the next meeting.
- D. Faith-based Community Development: The Task Force requested a list of churches in the CDBG area and information on their level of community involvement. The City will compile the list and share it at the next meeting.
- E. CDBG Poverty: The Task Force requested poverty rates for each of the CDBG's census tracts. The City will compile the information and will disseminate it at the next meeting.

## 7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 21  
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Bull Street Library Auditorium

## Attachments:

- 1) Task Force Contact List
- 2) Poverty Rate 1970 -2000
- 3) "Study on Persistent Poverty in the South" – Key Facts Pertaining to Savannah/Chatham County
- 4) Profile of Poverty in Savannah
- 5) Summary of Community Resources